Thomas Michael Brennan





Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 2933136

Regiment: - Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders 5th Bn.

Died: - Died of Wounds 1st April 1943 aged 27 years

Cemetery: - Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia V11.C.10.

Thomas Michael was born on 6 February 1916 the son of Thomas and Gertrude Brennan nee Preston who had married in 1911. John and Winifred were born in 1911 followed by Margaret 1914, Thomas, Ellen 1917, Mary Ann 1919, Norah 1921, Gertrude 1923 and Maurice 1925. Thomas was educated at St. Mary's Roman Catholic School and worshipped at St. Mary's Church. He was employed at Messrs. Thomas Burnley and Sons', Gomersal Mills and played in the works football team.

He resided in Cobden Street, Batley with his aunt and uncle Mr. and Mrs James Rowe.



BATLEY SERGEANT DIES FROM WOUNDS.

Sergt. Thomas Brennan, Cameron Highlanders, who resided with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rowe, in Cobden Street, Batley, is officially reported to have died of wounds in the Middle East on April 1st. He was educated at Batley St. Mary's Roman Catholic School and worshipped at St. Mary's Church. He was employed at Messrs. T. Burnley and Sons' Gomersal Mills and played in the works' football team. He was previously wounded at El Alamein in November.

Thos. Brennan.

Batley News, 1 May 1943 (photo)

The 5th Battalion formed part of the reconstituted 152nd Brigade in the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division. Arriving in North Africa in August 1942, the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division experienced its first fighting at the Second Battle of El Alamein (October–November), sustaining some 2,000 casualties. It then played a major part in *Operation Lightfoot*, where it was in the centre of the Northern Push, between the 9th Australian Division and the 2nd New Zealand Division. It faced the German 21st Panzer Division and some Italian units. Initially unsuccessful during Lightfoot, the minefields it cleared were key in achieving a breakout during *Operation Supercharge.* Thomas was injured in November during this battle.

The division was involved in many battles of the Tunisian Campaign, including the battle of Wadi Akarit, in early April 1943, and took part in the frontal assault on strong-points guarded by deep minefields, where it was on the far right of the line. Thomas was wounded a second time and died from these wounds on 1 April 1943.

R.I.P.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, Addenda



Researched by members of
Batley History Group